This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 8, 2008. Claims 1 to 18 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 7 and 13 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,115,132 (Nakatsuma) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,380,951 (Petchenkine). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns print spooling wherein, upon changing from an originally intended printer to an alternate destination printer before the spooling of print data has been completed, spooling is performed using the print data already spooled and at the same time output of the spooled print data to the alternate destination printer is performed.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a computer-executable print control program stored on a computer-readable medium and executed by an information processing apparatus. The program includes a spooling step of spooling print data created and spooled via a print data creation module again; an outputting step of outputting the spooled print data to a destination printer; a changing step of changing the destination printer to an alternation destination printer before the spooling step has completed the spooling of the print data; and a control step of concurrently performing the spooling of the print data such that the spooling is continued from the print data already spooled without restarting from the beginning, and performing output of the spooled print data to the alternation destination printer.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, namely Nakatsuma and Petchenkine, considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the computer-executable print control program of Claim 1. In particular, the cited

references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of outputting the spooled print data to a destination printer, a changing step of changing the destination printer to an alternation destination printer before said spooling step has completed the spooling of the print data and a control step of concurrently performing the spooling of the print data such that the spooling is continued from the print data already spooled without restarting from the beginning, and performing output of the spooled print data to the alternation destination printer.

Nakatsuma discloses sending print data to network printer 701 after virtual print spooler 801 spools the print data. Nakatsuma. further discloses that a virtual printer server uses virtual printer names to manage printers. (See, for example, Column 31, Lines 65 to Column 32, Line 13). This facilitates selection of different output printers. However, the Office Action concedes that Nakatsuma fails to disclose or suggest concurrently performing data spooling with the output of the spooled data. The Office Action relies on Petchenkine to disclose such a feature.

Petchenkine discloses a multi-tasking and multi-threading Raster Image Processor (RIP) wherein data importing, ripping, spooling and printing occur simultaneously. The RIP can be working on the next page while the recorder is printing. (See Petchenkine, Column 3, Lines 19 to 29).

However, even if Nakatsuma were modified in view of Petchenkine as suggested in the Office Action, a combination which Applicants do not concede is permissible, such a combination would result in an apparatus that can change between various printers and re-starting and re-spooling of print data but the apparatus will re-spool from the beginning of the print data even if the apparatus performs outputting of the print data to a selected printer in

parallel with the re-spooling. This is because Nakatsuma discloses that, after the virtual print server acquires a new job ID, a virtual print server print monitor 708 writes the print data as a print file in the virtual print spooler. After the spooling, the virtual print service print monitor 708 requests the virtual print server to start job scheduling. (See Nakatsuma, Fig. 11 and its related description, Column 14, Lines 6 to 59). Therefore, any permissible combination of Nakatsuma with Petchenkine fails to disclose or suggest performing spooling using print data already spooled and at the same time performing output of the spooled print data to an alternation destination printer, upon a change from an originally intended printer to the alternation destination printer before the spooling of the print data has been completed.

In light of the deficiencies of Nakatsuma and Petchenkine as discussed above, Applicants submit that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Amended independent Claims 7 and 13 are directed to a computer-readable medium and an apparatus, respectively, substantially in accordance with the computer-executable print control program of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 7 and 13 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939. The Director is further authorized to charge any deficiency therein, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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